

Board of Selectmen
Minutes November 30, 2021

Convened at 6:00 pm

Present: Ken Christiansen
Robert Mantegari
Jon Morgan

Absent: Andrew Artimovich

Christiansen called the meeting to order.

The Board met and reviewed payroll, accounts payable and signed the register. The Selectmen reviewed and signed the Recreation register.

Joyce Gallant was in to present the weekly Treasurer's report. Please see last page to view the report.

Mantegari made a motion to approve the public minutes of 11/23/2021 as written. Morgan asked that they be amended to show his "aye" vote to approve the highway budget of \$401,041.34 for 2022. Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Morgan to approve the amended minutes of 11/23/2021 as written. Morgan – aye, Mantegari – aye, and Christiansen - aye. The motion carries.

Kip Kaiser, Building Inspector, had the following building permits to be approved this week:

- Wright Builders LLC, 31 Rt 107, plumbing for new home: signed by Board.
- Donna Stevens, 130 Scrabble Road, install roof mounted solar panels: signed by Board.
- Margaret Rozzi, 13 Sanborn Way, install roof mounted solar panels: signed by Board.
- Richard Nichols, 87 South Road, 3-car garage with great room above: signed by Board.
- Renee Vacca, 3 Lindon Drive, re-roof: signed by Board.

Notes:

- 1) At home test kits are now being offered from the state. Schools are accepting them to allow symptomatic kids to return to school faster. Do you want to allow them for town employees?
 - a. Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Morgan for town employees to be able to use home test kits. All in favor. The motion carries.
- 2) Appoint a new representative to serve as BOS rep. for conservation commission.
 - a. Christiansen said he will take the position. Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Morgan for Christiansen to serve as BOS rep. for the conservation commission until March. All in favor. The motion carries.
- 3) Christmas and New Year's fall on a Saturday so the holidays are observed on Friday. Do you want to have a BOS meeting on Tuesday 12/28?
 - a. Mantegari said the budgets will be done by then. All are in favor to come in and sign the Manifest only. No BOS meeting on 12/28.
- 4) Holiday party? Or lunch paid by town for each department like last year?
 - a. Mantegari said he felt it was good to have departments meeting and talking to each other. Morgan said the numbers right now are higher than at the peak of the pandemic and he wants to be respectful to employees. Christiansen said to table subject this until next week's meeting. Clement said she will ask the department heads what their preference is.

Budgets:

- 1) Library
 - a. James Clark, Liz McConnell, Janice Wiers and Kiki Donis-Wahl were in attendance to present the library budget. Morgan asked if the wage analysis that happened for town employees included library staff and

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Clement said they were not included. Christiansen said their budget is separate and set by RSAs. Morgan said it would be interesting to see what other towns libraries are paying. Wiers said they did their own assessment and passed handouts to the BOS. McConnell said their data is from Seacoast libraries. Christiansen asked for recommendations and McConnell said to pass the budget. McConnell said they are very happy to have Donis-Wahl be the new Assistant Librarian; however, they lost the previous Assistant Librarian due to finances and she had to work 3 jobs to try and make money to be able to stay with us. Clement asked if Kiki is classified as an assistant librarian or assistant director and Wiers said an assistant director/youth librarian. Christiansen asked if we approved the budget as submitted would everyone be happy and Wiers said it would be a better chance of keeping her people. Morgan asked for the interest of transparency to tell the people in the audience what the BOS are looking at. Morgan said the average for the Director position is \$33.52, and the Director position right now is \$25.32 bumping up to \$26.82 starting April. Mantegari said their wage comparison included bigger libraries, like Portsmouth, Exeter, and Rye. Morgan said it would be interesting to look at the same towns. Christiansen said he has no problem with the increase and Morgan said it is still way below. Mantegari said the total increase is 5.4%. Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Morgan to approve the library budget of \$264,879.73 for 2022. All in favor. The motion carries.

2) Fire

- a. Christiansen advised that Chief Bird is delayed, however, Clement will present their budget. Clement said this is the budget the BOS has already seen from the Fire Chief on 2 occasions and said this is the cost with the new pay matrix with the wage adjustment with the fire fighters and 4 full-timers at 24hrs. Morgan said it would be helpful to have a full board as possible to go through a budget with this much of an increase, and with him being a first responder (Artimovich). Christiansen asked if this budget was going before the budget committee tomorrow and Clement said tentatively, but we could push it. Clement said they would be using ARPA funds to offset some of the tax impact. Christiansen said he respects the delay and Mantegari agrees. Christiansen said the budget will be tabled until next week and Clement asked if Ambulance would be as well, and Christiansen said yes.

Morgan said the economic development survey is now live on www.bringittobrentwood.com and hard copies are available in town hall and at the library. Morgan would like to hear from everyone in town, 1 survey per town adult resident. Morgan said if anyone needs help with the survey, they can reach out to him or anyone else on the committee and advised that the committee members names are on the website. Morgan said we can not put a serious plan together without town input. Morgan stated that this is the first of many surveys to take place over the next year. Clement said there is a link to the economic development page on the town's website.

Mantegari advised that Comcast rates are increasing again, averaging \$5, effective December 20, 2021.

Liz Faria, 209 South Road asked when the next economic development committee meeting in and Morgan said tomorrow at town hall, 6pm.

Clement has 2 memos from Glenn Greenwood, Planner, regarding site plan violations for Brentwood Fence and Brentwood Surplus Sales which are asking for a cease-and-desist order. Mantegari said we have to send code enforcement out to verify the violations and send a letter for the violations.

Chief Bird was in attendance to discuss his budget and was advised it will be discussed at next week's meeting. Christiansen said there will be a 5-minute recess until the town administrator returns. At 6:28pm Christiansen said we were back on record.

Morgan asked if we should do the 2 memos from Greenwood in non-public and Christiansen said no further action needs to be taken at this time as code enforcement needs to go out first.

Skip Murphy, majority owner of granitegrok.com was in attendance. Murphy said he would like to put the record straight

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as both himself and granitegrok.com were mentioned in the meeting a couple of weeks ago. Murphy said he had sent in for some right to know (RTK) demands which he had already received one from Clement by email. Christiansen said in accordance with RSA 91:A Murphy had submitted 2 requests for information. Murphy said the first was because Morgan had said there was a booklet for the selectmen of Brentwood, which a pdf of that document was sent to him. Murphy also asked for a copy of the signed code of conduct that Morgan said each selectmen signed. Christiansen said we will provide you with a signed document. Clement said she had sent Murphy a signed copy of the Selectmen's handbook that each Selectmen signed and advised that we do not have a separate signed code of conduct, that we have an ethics policy and asked Murphy if that was what he was referencing. Murphy said Morgan had said code of conduct which is what he wrote the RTK for and asked if there was a separate ethics policy to which Clement said that is included in the employee handbook and signed by all of the Selectmen. Murphy said he will ask for those as well. Murphy said the 2nd RTK is to ask for copies of all emails to and from the Selectmen over the last year. Clement advised she will get in touch with IT to get a time frame and if it is going to take more than 5 days, she will be in touch with Murphy with that time frame. Murphy said electronic form is always better than paper and he appreciates Clement jumping on this right away.

Murphy spoke to the BOS meeting a couple of weeks ago that much was made at that meeting that Mantegari and himself must know each other and this was made very clear from McConnell, Letty Bedard and Eric Turer. Murphy wishes to set the record straight and says this is the first time he has met Mantegari, he has never known him, and saw from the video that Mantegari was under attack and thought Mantegari did a very good job by saying no, he doesn't know this person who wrote the article. Murphy says for the record that he wrote the article, that he has written a few articles on this over the years and another writer at Granite Grok has also written an article on this. Murphy would like everyone to understand that Mantegari has never sent him any images concerning Bedard with her mask-making and then not wearing a mask during the meeting. Murphy said the intent of the post was to do one thing – to point out the hypocrisy. Murphy said you cannot do one thing and say another without it being raised. Murphy spoke to Henry the scarecrow and said it wasn't him who zoomed in.

Murphy said that McConnell wanted everyone to know what Granite Grok was all about, but she had stopped halfway through. Murphy read the following statement so that people understand:

We ARE your feared:

Fire-breathing, extremist, right-wing, hard-charging, gun-toting, opinionated, outspoken, rabble-rousing, letter-writing, radio microphone stomping, buying ink electrons by the barrel Conservatives and Rational Libertarians!

We take on all Progressives/Liberals/Moderates/ Squishy Republicans and fly to the aid of rock-ribbed freedom-loving and liberty seeking/leaning folk anywhere!

We are those that are striking fear into the hearts of Democrats, Progressives (in any Party), and Socialists everywhere in NH. After all, none of them DARE to take us on, mano-y-mano in the blogosphere or any other place in any debate anywhere. As with fabled Texas Rangers of old (1 mob – 1 Ranger): we're just ordinary schlubs in New Hampsha vs the whole of the NH Dem/Progressive Party – no contest!

Murphy said he wanted to read that because while McConnell was outraged, it confirmed the stereotype that many people have on the right that democrats have little sense of humor and no sense of satire. Murphy thanked the Chair for allowing him to read that.

At 6:38pm Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Morgan to go in to non-public for personnel and legal. Morgan – aye, Mantegari – aye and Christiansen – aye. The motion carries.

At 7:04 pm a motion was made by Mantegari, 2nd by Morgan to come out of nonpublic session and seal the minutes. Mantegari – aye, Morgan – aye, and Christiansen – aye. The motion carries.

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At 7:04pm Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Morgan to adjourn. All were in favor. The motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Parkhurst.

WEEKLY TREASURER'S REPORT

DATE: **11/30/2021**

General Fund:

TD BANK

Previous Balance: 6,941,304.55

Deposits: 1,135,512.58

Payroll: 21,453.66 DDP: \$20,955.86
CHK: \$497.80

FICA: 5336.83

to Impact Fees Reg A/P Cks \$52,116.93 NH Retirement
CO-OP:
A/P: Regular 987,951.93 Swasey : \$220,265.00 \$715,570.00
FICA Return
void checks

Account Balance: 7,062,074.71

Interest Earned
YTD: 2,253.02

Former MMA Interest Earned
YTD: 1253.26

Joyce A. Gallant, Treasurer
Jonathan Ellis, Deputy Treasurer